

REMARKS

Interview

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended to Applicant's undersigned Attorney during the telephonic interview held on December 9, 2010. The amendments and remarks included in this Reply are consistent with the topics discussed during the interview.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 3, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 18-23, 39, 41, 44-48, 50, 52, 54, 56-62, 64, 65, 68, 69, 71, 72, 76, 78-83, and 111-114 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 39, and 62 being independent.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 39, and 62, and added new claims 112-114. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to independent claims 1, 39, and 62, specified in the claim listing above, as well as the subject matter of new claims 112-114, are supported in the original disclosure, for example, in the originally-filed drawings.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 18-23, 39, 44-48, 50, 52, 54, 56-62, 65, 68, 69, 71, 72, 76, 78-83, 111 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Furusawa¹ in view of Olson (U.S. Patent No. 1,686,981). In addition, Claims 3, 41, 64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Furusawa in view of Yuzuhara².

¹ Although the Office Action does not specify a patent number for the "Furusawa" reference applied in the § 103(a) rejections, Applicant understands the Furusawa reference referred to by the Examiner to be JP 2001/158464.

² Applicant understands "Yuzuhara" to refer to JP 2002-136332.

Rejections Under § 103(a)

Applicant respectfully submits that the § 103(a) rejection based on Furusawa and Olson and the § 103(a) rejection based on Furusawa and Yuzuhara should be withdrawn because the cited art fails to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in amended independent claims 1, 39, and 62. In particular, each of independent claims 1, 39, and 62 has been amended to specify that

wherein the channel is defined by an inner wall surface of the at least one intermediate tooth and wherein, at a location adjacent the outlet aperture, a deepest part of the groove is in substantial alignment with the inner wall surface at a location adjacent the outlet aperture and on a side of the outlet aperture opposite the groove.

Emphasis added.

Applicant submits that the cited references do not disclose or suggest this feature. With particular regard to Furusawa, Applicant notes that the text of Furusawa clearly indicates that this reference does not include this feature. Applicant calls the Examiner's attention to the following paragraphs of Furusawa:³

[0023] These mold release vertical grooves 11 are for achieving mold release of mold portions forming the dispensing holes 9 in combination with mold pins for forming the dispensing channels 10.

[0024] Thus, the mold release vertical grooves 11 form a path for release of the mold portion for forming the dispensing holes 9 in combination with the mold pins, in other words, they form a path for passage of this mold portion in a relatively upward direction.

[0025] Therefore, not only should it be obvious that the mold release vertical grooves 11 must have a groove width that is at least equal to the lateral width of the openings of the dispensing holes 9, but also their bottom surfaces must be positioned further inside than the surfaces of the dispensing channels 10.

³ This text is set forth in the translation of Furusawa that was submitted as an attachment to Applicant's Request for Reconsideration filed August 13, 2009.

Emphasis added. Applicant respectfully submits that the underlined portion of paragraph [0025] above describes a configuration that is in direct contradiction to that defined in amended independent claims 1, 39, and 62. Further, none of the other cited references, either alone or in any legally proper combination, discloses or suggests this claimed feature. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the § 103(a) rejections should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that each of independent claims 1, 39, and 62 is in condition for allowance. In addition, each of claims 3, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 18-23, 41, 44-48, 50, 52, 54, 56-61, 64, 65, 68, 69, 71, 72, 76, 78-83, and 111-114 depends from one of these independent claims and, accordingly, is allowable for at least the same reasons that the claim from which it respectively depends is allowable.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

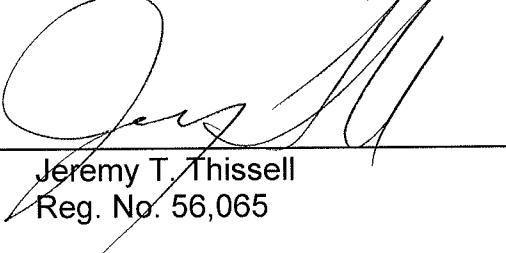
The Office Action contains characterizations and conclusions regarding the related art and Applicant's claims with which Applicant does not necessarily agree. Unless expressly noted otherwise, Applicant declines to subscribe to any such characterizations and conclusions.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conversation could facilitate the resolution of any issues related to this application, or otherwise expedite prosecution of this application, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney, Jeremy Thissell, at 571-203-2717.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge
any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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Dated: December 20, 2010